

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46-48, 50 and 53-71 were last presented for examination in this application. In the Office Action, claims 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 53-71 were rejected, and claim 47 was objected to. In the foregoing amendments, claim 36 has been amended. Claims 42, 47 and 68 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50 and 53-71 will be pending in the captioned application. These amendments do not add new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

2. The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has rejected claim 36 for use of the term "printed circuit board," suggesting that the term "printed wiring board" be used instead. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

3. In Applicants' specification, the term "printed circuit board" is defined as including a printed wiring board and one or more components mounted on the printed wiring board. As such, a printed wiring board is one component of a printed circuit board. Applicants' use of these terms in the claims is consistent with the definitions in Applicants' specification, as well as with common usage. As such, the claims are neither vague nor ambiguous. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

4. The Examiner has rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Chitwood. To Expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 36 to incorporate the features of claims 42 and 47. The Examiner indicated that claim 47 recites allowable subject matter. Claim 36, as amended, includes the limitations of claim 47, its base claim (claim 36) and all intervening claims (claim 42). Claim 36, therefore, should now be in condition for allowance.

5. These amendments should not be construed as an indication that Applicants' agree with the Examiner's basis or rationale for rejecting the claims based on Chitwood. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims that are the same or similar to the rejected claims in a continuation application.

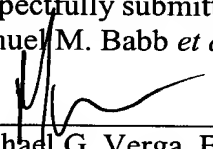
Dependent Claims

6. Dependent claims 38, 39, 41, 44, 46, 48, 50, 53-67 and 69-71 incorporate all of the subject matter of independent claim 36 and add additional subject matter which makes them *a fortiori* and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

7. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after entering this paper into the record, that an interview will facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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